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15  
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
17 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 ZHANG ZIYI, an individual,

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 CHINA FREE PRESS, INC., a North  
22 Carolina non-profit corporation doing  
23 business as BOXUN NEWS; WEICAN  
24 NULL MENG, an individual also known  
25 as WATSON MENG and also known as  
WEICAN “WATSON” MENG; DOES 1-  
25, inclusive,

26 Defendants.

27 CASE NO.: cv 12-5216-DMG (PLAx)

28 **OPPOSITION OF PLAINTIFF  
ZHANG ZIYI TO DEFENDANT  
WEICAN NULL MENG’S EX  
PARTE MOTION FOR LEAVE TO  
SUPPLEMENT THE SPECIAL  
MOTION TO STRIKE UNDER  
CALIFORNIA CIVIL  
PROCEDURE § 425.16**

1 Plaintiff Zhang Ziyi respectfully requests that Defendant Weican Null  
 2 Meng's Ex Parte Motion for Leave to Supplement the Special Motion to Strike  
 3 Under California Civil Procedure § 425.16 ("Ex Parte Application") be denied.  
 4

5 **A. Meng Has Failed to Show Good Cause for His Failure to Timely File the**  
 6 **Declaration of David Ardia**

7 There is no good cause that would justify allowing defendant Weican Null  
 8 Meng ("Meng") to file an additional declaration in support of his pending Special  
 9 Motion to Strike Under California Civil Procedure Code § 425.16 ("Motion to  
 10 Strike"). Meng filed his Motion to Strike on August 18, 2012 – over three months  
 11 ago. And two days later, he filed Defendant Weican Null Meng's Notice of  
 12 Special Motion to Strike Under California Civil Procedure § 425.16 expressly  
 13 stating that the Motion to Strike was based on, *inter alia*, "the Declarations of  
 14 Weican 'Watson' Null Meng, Ye 'Ken' Wang, Mary Hausch, and J. Malcolm  
 15 DeVoy." The Notice made no mention of any declaration from David Ardia.

16 On November 9, 2012, Meng served Defendant Weican Null "Watson"  
 17 Meng's Disclosure of Expert Witnesses listing Mr. Ardia as a potential expert. But  
 18 even then, Meng never indicated that he intended to rely on Mr. Ardia as an expert  
 19 for purposes of his pending Motion to Strike. It was not until November 14, 2012  
 20 – less than two weeks ago – that Meng indicated for the first time that he intended  
 21 to submit a declaration by Mr. Ardia in support of his Motion. But, even then,  
 22 Meng provided no explanation as to why he was attempting to rely on new  
 23 evidence to support his Motion to Strike and no legal authority that would support  
 24 his untimely request to do so.

25 Meng's counsel now argues in the Ex Parte Application that he made  
 26 unspecified "diligent efforts" to obtain Mr. Ardia's declaration sooner, and he  
 27 argues further that he is "without fault" in creating this situation requiring ex parte  
 28 relief. *See* Ex Parte Application at 3-4. But Meng provided no evidence of his

1 efforts to obtain Mr. Ardia's declaration sooner, and he provided no evidence to  
2 explain why he was unable to obtain it in a timely manner. In fact, the Ex Parte  
3 Application contains no admissible evidence whatsoever – only the unsworn  
4 argument of Meng's counsel. Meng's Ex Parte Application should be denied  
5 accordingly.

6

7 **B. Plaintiff Will Be Prejudiced if Meng is Permitted to File the New**  
8 **Declaration**

9 It is too late for Defendant to supplement the evidence upon which his  
10 Motion to Strike is based. Under Rule 6(c)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil  
11 Procedure, “[a]ny affidavit supporting a motion must be served with the motion.”  
12 Similarly, Local Rule 7-5(b) requires that “[t]he evidence upon which the moving  
13 party will rely in support of the motion” must be “served and filed with the notice  
14 of motion.”

15 The hearing on Meng's Motion to Strike has already been continued three  
16 times to allow Plaintiff time to conduct the deposition of Meng and one of his other  
17 designated experts, Mary Hausch. Meng never indicated that he intended to locate  
18 and disclose another expert witness when the parties negotiated and entered into  
19 the three previous stipulations to continue the hearing. By the time Meng  
20 disclosed Mr. Ardia to Plaintiff, the only time he offered to make Mr. Ardia  
21 available for deposition was November 28, 2012 – just two days before Plaintiff's  
22 opposition to the Motion to Strike is currently due. Under the circumstances, that  
23 is far too late, and Plaintiff will be substantially prejudiced if Meng is permitted to  
24 add a new expert at this late date.

25

26 **C. Meng Will Not Be Prejudiced if His Ex Parte Application is Denied**

27 Meng argues that he will be “irreparably prejudiced” if his Ex Parte  
28 Application is not granted and he is not permitted to rely on Mr. Ardia's untimely

1 declaration in support of his Motion to Strike.<sup>1</sup> Ex Parte Application at 4. But  
 2 that's not true. Meng fails to mention that his Motion to Strike is based on the  
 3 declaration and deposition testimony of another expert – Mary Hausch. Like Mr.  
 4 Ardia, Ms. Hausch is college journalism professor and, like Mr. Ardia, Ms. Haush  
 5 has offered evidence that, in her opinion, Mr. Meng complied with the standards of  
 6 care for journalists when he published a series of articles accusing Plaintiff of  
 7 being a high price prostitute. Mr. Ardia's proposed declaration is thus duplicative  
 8 of the declaration (and deposition testimony) of Ms. Haush, and Plaintiff has  
 9 provided no explanation as to why he should be entitled to present untimely,  
 10 duplicative testimony. The inability to present duplicative testimony certainly does  
 11 not constitute “irreparable prejudice” as Meng’s counsel now argues.

12

13 **D. If the Court Grant’s Meng’s Ex Parte Application, the Hearing on**  
 14 **Meng’s Motion to Strike Must Be Continued to Allow Plaintiff to**  
 15 **Conduct Mr. Ardia’s Deposition**

16 In the event the Court grant’s Meng’s Ex Parte Application (which Plaintiff  
 17 opposes), the hearing on the Motion to Strike will have to be further continued for  
 18 approximately one month to give Plaintiff the opportunity to conduct Mr. Ardia’s  
 19 deposition. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, motions to strike are  
 20 treated like motions for summary judgment. *See Rogers v. Home Shopping*  
 21 *Network, Inc.*, 57 F. Supp. 2d 973, 983 (C.D. Cal. 1999) (special motion to strike  
 22 under Civil Procedure Code § 425.16 treated as a motion for summary judgment  
 23 under Rule 56). As a result, in the event the Court grants Meng’s Ex Parte  
 24 Application, Plaintiff is entitled as a matter of right to conduct Mr. Ardia’s

25

26 <sup>1</sup> Conversely, he also argues that if his Ex Parte Application is denied, “the Court  
 27 will simply re-review it on a later summary judgment motion (should the existing  
 28 motion without this document not be sufficient to terminate the case).” *See* Ex  
 Parte Application at 3.

1 deposition in connection with the Motion to Strike, and the hearing would have to  
2 be further continued yet again in order to accommodate the necessary discovery.  
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4 \* \* \*

5 For all of the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff Zhang Ziyi respectfully requests  
6 that Defendant Weican Null Meng's Ex Parte Application be denied.  
7

8 DATED: November 26, 2012

GLASER WEIL FINK JACOBS  
HOWARD AVCHEN & SHAPIRO LLP

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